

AT THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, DISTRICT OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY COUNTY, STATE OF NEW YORK

U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
N.D. OF N.Y.  
FILED

MAY 15 2017

LAWRENCE K. BAERMAN, CLERK  
ALBANY

**EDWARD J. REINHART**

**CLAIMANT**

**CITIMORTGAGE, INC., CYNTHIA  
ROSICKI, TOM P ROSICKI,  
DEBORAH M GALLO, VIRGINIA  
GRAPENSTER, LAURA STRAUSS,  
ANTHONY P. LUCKIE, ROSICKI,  
ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C.,  
ASHLEY S MILLER, AKERMAN  
LLP, MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC  
REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC.;**

**RESPONDENTS**

Civil No.

15-CV-1095(DNH)(CFH)

1<sup>st</sup> Amended Complaint

Date: November 3, 2015

## **CHALLENGE TO SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION**

Petitioner sought a declaration of rights to determine the bona fide holder of a residential mortgage.

### **I. CHALLENGE TO THE JURISDICTION.**

#### **A. *Single Issue Brought***

Petitioner, in the instant case, brought a single issue for a declaration of rights of the party. The issue brought is: In a matter of a rescission filed out of time, does the statute of limitations act as a bar to filing the rescission, or does the statute of

limitations included in the Truth In Lending Act at 1635(c) merely act as an affirmative defense to rescission?"

***B. Court Ruled On Issues Not Before It***

The trial court failed to exercise its jurisdiction over the issues brought and ruled on issues introduced by Defendant instead. Defendant, in its response to Petitioner's request for declaratory judgment, mischaracterized the case as a petition for damages under the Truth In Lending Act. Defendant then proceeded to rant and rave about the inapplicability of such a claim for damages.

Apparently the Defendant took it upon itself to enter a claim for Petitioner which the court seemed only too willing to deny out of hand. The problem was, the issues denied by the trial court were not before the court and Petitioner did not appeal the denial of the claim never made by Petitioner. Petitioner appealed the rulings of the court based on its failure to address the single issue brought.

***C. Jurisdiction Over Declaratory Judgment***

The Court explained in *Franchise Tax Bd. v. Construction Laborers Vacation Trust*, 463 U.S. 1, 9 (1983):

"Federal courts have regularly taken original jurisdiction over declaratory judgment suits in which, if the declaratory judgment defendant brought a coercive action to enforce its rights, that suit would necessarily present a federal question."

***D. Court Must Prove Jurisdiction***

Jurisdiction is a matter between the litigants and the court. It is the court that has made a demand on Petitioner and, therefore, it is the court that must prove up its authority to rule make demands on Petitioner in the instant matter.

"Once jurisdiction is challenged, the court cannot proceed when it clearly appears that the court lacks jurisdiction, the court has no authority to reach merits, but, rather, should dismiss the action." *Melo v. US*, 505 F2d 1026.

Morrison v. Nat'l Australia Bank Ltd., 547 F.3d 167 (2d Cir. 2008), aff'd 130 S. Ct. 2869 (2010) (quoting Arar v. Ashcroft, 532 F.3d 157, 168 (2d Cir.2008)) (“Determining the existence of subject matter jurisdiction is a threshold inquiry and a claim is properly dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction under Federal Rule 12(b)(1) when the district court lacks the statutory or constitutional power to adjudicate it.”)

#### ***E. Jurisdiction Not Within Discretion of Court***

The matter if jurisdiction is not a matter within the discretion of this court. Subject matter jurisdiction is an essential part of the authority of a court to decide a case, and it is never to be presumed and cannot be waived. Tex. Ass'n of Bus. v. Tex. Air Control Bd., 852 S.W.2d 440, 443-44 (Tex. 1993). The reviewing court determines whether subject matter jurisdiction exists as a question of law, subject to de novo review. Mayhew v. Town of Sunnyvale, 964 S.W.2d 922, 928 (Tex. 1998).

#### ***F. The Court Must Determine Jurisdiction***

The court, in the instant action, acted on claims alleged by Defendants to have been made by Plaintiff. Before the court could exercise jurisdiction over the alleged claims, the court had to first determine whether or not the claims were actually made by Plaintiff so as to invoke the subject matter jurisdiction of the court:

A court “generally may not rule on the merits of a case without first determining that it has jurisdiction over the category of claim in the suit (subject-matter jurisdiction) . . . .” Sinochem Int'l Co. Ltd. v. Malaysia Int'l Shipping Corp., 549 U.S. 422, 430-31 (2007) (declining to address jurisdiction and holding that district court had authority to dismiss action on forum non conveniens grounds before

considering the merits) (citing *Steel Co. v. Citizens for a Better Env't*, 523 U.S. 83, 93–102 (1998) (rejecting doctrine of “hypothetical jurisdiction” that would allow a court to rule on issues of law before adjudicating jurisdiction)).

*Morrison v. Nat'l Australia Bank Ltd.*, 547 F.3d 167 (2d Cir. 2008), *aff'd* 130 S. Ct. 2869 (2010) (quoting *Arar v. Ashcroft*, 532 F.3d 157, 168 (2d Cir.2008)) (“Determining the existence of subject matter jurisdiction is a threshold inquiry and a claim is properly dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction under Rule 12(b)(1) when the district court lacks the statutory or constitutional power to adjudicate it.”)

In the instant case, the court went straight to the merits of issues not brought.

#### ***G. Proceedings A Nullity***

The court, in the instant case, took it upon itself to adopt the claims attributed to Petitioner by Defendant and exercise jurisdiction over said claims.

“A universal principle as old as the law is that a proceedings of a court **without jurisdiction** are a **nullity** and its judgment therein without effect either on person or property.” *Norwood v. Renfield*, 34 C 329; *Ex parte Giambonini*, 49 P. 732.

## **II. CONCLUSION**

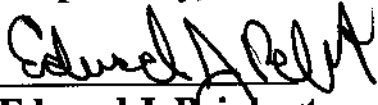
Petitioner, in the instant case, petitioned the court for a declaration of the rights of the parties concerning a certain deed of trust under 28 USC 2201. The court mischaracterized the suit as a claim for damages under the Truth In Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. 1601, then denied said claims without ruling on the only issue before the court.

### **III. PRAYER**

Affiant prays of the court an order:

1. declaring that the court is without jurisdiction over the rulings made;
2. remanding the case to the trial court for a ruling on the only issue brought.

Respectfully,

  
Edward J. Reinhart

### OATH AND VERIFICATION

I, Edward J. Reinhart, declare under penalty of perjury and the laws of the United States, that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my personal knowledge, recollection, and belief.

*Edward J. Reinhart*

State: New York )

County: Albany )

Sworn and Subscribed

Signed and sealed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2017.

By: *Connie For*  
Stamp/Seal

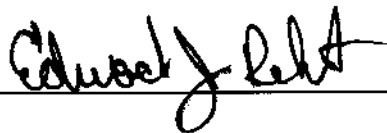
*12/08/18*  
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## **AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE**

I Edward Reinhart hereby verify that I caused a true and correct copy of;

- **CHALLENGE TO SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION**
- To be mailed via the United States Postal Service, First Class Mail, properly addressed, on or about May 15, 2017 to the following:

Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates, P.C.  
Main Office 51 E Bethpage Road  
Plainview, NY 11803

By: 

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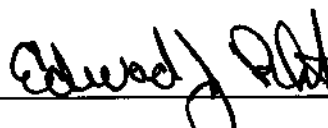
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Ashley S Miller  
c/o Akerman LLP  
666 Fifth Avenue  
20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10103

By: \_\_\_\_\_



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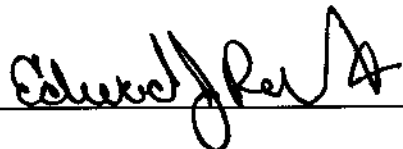
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**CITIMORTGAGE, INC.**  
100 Technology Drive  
O'Fallon, Missouri 63368

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Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.  
1818 Library Street  
Suite 300  
Reston, VA 20190

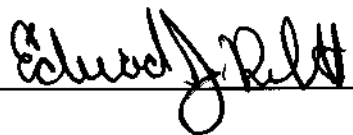
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Deborah M Gallo  
c/o Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates, P.C.  
Main Office 51 E Bethpage Road  
Plainview, NY 11803

By: 

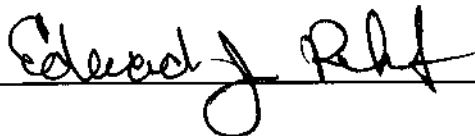
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Virginia Grapenster  
c/o Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates, P.C.  
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Plainview, NY 11803

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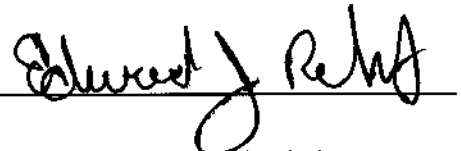
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Tom P. Rosicki  
c/o Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates, P.C.  
Main Office 51 E Bethpage Road  
Plainview, NY 11803

By: \_\_\_\_\_



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Cynthia Rosicki  
c/o Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates, P.C.  
Main Office 51 E Bethpage Road  
Plainview, NY 11803

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William Knox  
c/o Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates, P.C.  
Main Office 51 E Bethpage Road  
Plainview, NY 11803

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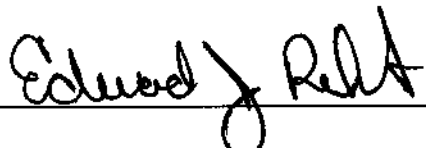
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Anthony P. Luckie  
c/o Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates, P.C.  
Main Office 51 E Bethpage Road  
Plainview, NY 11803

By: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward J. Reinhart", is written over a horizontal line.

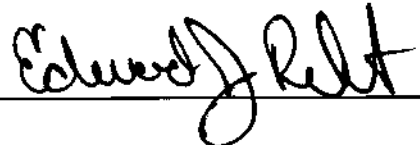
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Laura Strauss  
c/o Rosicki, Rosicki & Associates, P.C.  
Main Office 51 E Bethpage Road  
Plainview, NY 11803

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